

The Evening World.

ESTABLISHED BY JOSEPH PULITZER.
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CONCENTRATE.

THE report that a hundred housing bills are being rushed into shape for the special session of the Legislature which Gov. Smith has called for Sept. 20 is the reverse of reassuring.

Concentration on one or two simple, fundamental factors in the housing problem will be far more productive of results than a helter-skelter massing of palliatives.

When the Legislature meets next month, Gov. Smith should be able to urge for its consideration not above three or four compact, thoroughly thought out measures for housing relief.

What is more, he should have the backing of a public that has put its mind to the situation and tried to reach an intelligent understanding of how little rather than how much legislation is needed to remedy it.

The experience of the last few months has taught something.

It has taught that, necessary as it has been to protect tenants from grasping landlords by drastic rent laws, the only real solution of the problem is to get more houses built.

It has taught that drastic rent laws, with no inducements to offset them, do increase the current tendency of capital to shy away from realty investments that would mean the building of more homes.

It has taught that, while rent gouging must be repressed, tackling the problem on that side cannot be permitted to put lasting obstacles in the way of tackling it on the other.

In the same way, State and municipal building or aid to building, based upon the carefully studied experience of Great Britain and other countries, may be necessary and desirable to tide over a temporarily acute housing emergency in New York.

But the wisest advocates of State and municipal building do not urge it in a form that shall in any way tend to become permanent.

No level headed American is yet prepared to admit that the present housing problem in this country can only be solved by a resigned or despairing move in the direction of State Socialism.

When private initiative fails to provide houses enough, public initiative must take emergency steps to prevent intolerable suffering.

But at the same time public authority must study the underlying conditions which have caused private initiative thus to fail, and must do what it can to re-stimulate private initiative and restore it to normal economic action.

Real estate in the Metropolitan District of New York is now losing, it is claimed, \$300,000,000 of new investment money that would normally go into it in a year.

It is said to be losing \$200,000,000 more in liquidation and withdrawal of capital seeking other investment fields.

Why? For one reason, because investors see a larger percentage of return in securities which are exempt from State and Federal income taxes.

Could any one fact more significantly show why New York suffers for lack of new housing?

On the other hand, could anything suggest more obvious means of inducing capital to come back to the home-building field?

Until the cost of labor and material descends further from present high levels, exempt mortgages on houses, apartments and residential buildings generally from both State and Federal income taxes. Go further, if need be, and lighten for a time municipal taxes on such properties.

The result will be a rapid flow of money back into home building.

Directly that flow begins and the supply of houses and apartments promises to increase, the profiteering landlord will need few checks beyond the usual prospect of competition.

On this point, the Housing Committee of the

State Reconstruction Commission reported to the Governor last spring:

Mortgage loans must compete in the general market with other securities, and anything which tends to make mortgage loans more attractive will, pro tanto, tend to encourage building.

For this reason the majority of this commission finds itself in entire sympathy with the proposition temporarily to relieve from taxation, in whole or part, real estate mortgages up to the proposed amount of \$40,000, particularly if such exemption be confined to loans on houses or residential properties.

Expert thought centered on the housing problem has more and more agreed that tax exemption for mortgages on houses is one of the surest ways to start building.

It is idle to reproach capital for selfishness. Sentiment can never provide a solid and lasting remedy for housing shortage.

On the other hand, show-capital how it can get 6 per cent. in housing investments and millions of dollars will crowd to play a part in this sorely needed public service.

By taking steps to exempt mortgages on new housing construction from the State income tax, the Legislature of the State of New York could set a powerful example to Congress, which is already being urged to take similar action in regard to the Federal income tax.

This move would more than counteract the effect of such anti-rent-profiteering laws or such public housing projects as may prove necessary for immediate relief.

By insuring a revival of home building in the near future it would greatly reduce the necessity for multiplying or complicating such housing laws as are temporarily required.

In his call for the extra session of the Legislature, Gov. Smith said:

"The crying need is more houses, and nothing short of the active resumption of building on a large scale will bring adequate relief."

The Governor should fix on the one best method of securing that resumption by attracting the private capital on which, in the long run, housing will have to depend.

A jam of conflicting proposals can only clog the legislative wheels and end in futility or worse. Concentrate.

PROTECT THE PUBLIC.

DEPUTY SECRETARY OF STATE PARKER, sitting as a Magistrate, conducted an extraordinary court for automobile speeders Saturday.

The result was the cancellation of three driving licenses and suspension of twelve other licenses.

This result, satisfactory and important as it is, is insignificant in comparison with the revelation of the mental deficiencies of several of the drivers who had passed the tests which the State now imposes.

Several chauffeurs were unable to answer simple questions. One seemed to be entirely irresponsible. He could operate his machine in a mechanical way, but his mind was impaired.

Recent experience with automobile killings has demonstrated that the motor car of to-day may be as dangerous as any lethal weapon. It is not a mechanism which may be entrusted to children or to adults with the minds of children. Something more than a mere road test is imperative if the State is to protect its citizens.

The Evening World has repeatedly urged the need of a competent psychopathic staff as adviser to the court in cases where there is suspicion of mental irregularity.

Deputy Parker's examination would indicate the need for psychological tests which would establish the mental competence of those entrusted with the driving of the potentially deadly automobile.

If such tests are not to be required at the first issuance of a driving license they should be imposed as soon as the driver is first brought to court for violating the driving regulations.

MR. BURLESON DELVES BACKWARD.

IN the news of the last few days have come accounts of the delivery of delayed mail.

One postcard delivered in Philadelphia had been on the way for thirteen years. The addressee had been dead for five years.

Relatively quick delivery was recorded in another instance. A message travelled across two States in the course of only ten years.

Postmaster General Burleson deserves high credit for this attention to duty.

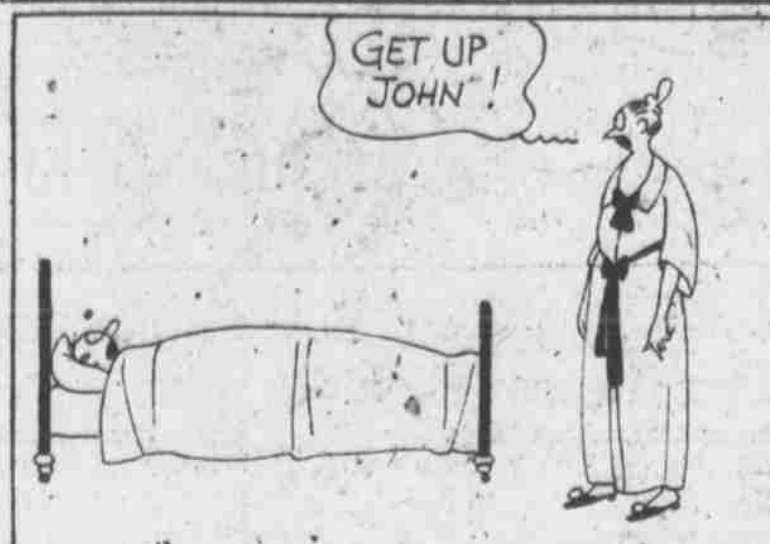
In addition to attending to his regular duties, he is now finishing his term by checking up on the omissions of his predecessor. These delayed messages hark back to the era of Presidents Roosevelt and Taft.

Had Mr. Burleson devoted more energy to house cleaning and less to censorship and politics he might have found time to rectify some of the early mistakes in his own regime.

The Day of Rest

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By Maurice Ketten



FROM EVENING WORLD READERS

What kind of letter do you find most readable? Isn't it the one that gives you the worth of a thousand words in a couple of hundred? There is fine mental exercise and a lot of satisfaction in trying to say much in a few words. Take time to be brief.

Grinding an Axe.
To the Editor of The Evening World:
In order to find out what the public's view is on the subject of increased fares, as to the I. R. T. and B. R. T. lines, would it not be a good suggestion to print a voting coupon in the daily papers? My belief is that the people of the City of New York have got the Hylan-Hearst Administration up to their necks.

We are all willing to admit that plenty of water exists in both companies and that they are over-capitalized, but we must also admit that the buying power of the dollar has diminished.

The Hylan-Hearst combine has an axe to grind, for their attitude in the matter bespeaks itself. But why grind it at the public's expense?

If this combine has the poor public's interests at heart as they claim to have, let them interest themselves in more vital matters, such as food and rent conditions. While they fight to save a man \$18 a year carfare, they assist others in gyping him out of hundreds of dollars.

BROOKLYNITE.
Aug. 12, 1920.

Spotted His Trip.
To the Editor of The Evening World:
What are we coming to? Sunday last I made the trip I longed for. It was a trip to Bear Mountain. I boarded the steamboat Grand Republic, scheduled to leave at 9 A. M. It left at 8:30. It did not take me long to feel that I was out of place.

The boat is forty-three years old and I believe it should have been ordered out of service at least ten years ago. It is badly in need of a wash—deck covered with swamps. Talk about profiteering! If you wanted a seat you bought it from the barman. I can't understand why city authorities permit a boat unfit to carry coal to carry passengers—most of whom are children. People visiting New York return with bad opinions of the city authorities for allowing anything of this sort.

G. J. S.
New York, Aug. 12, 1920.

Heard on Tobacco.
To the Editor of The Evening World:
Will some one be kind enough to tell me what could be done with a child who has been given tobacco by his father since infancy?

This boy knew how to puff on his father's pipe when he was nineteen months old, and to-day his father furnishes him with chewing tobacco, and has done so for the last three to five years. The boy is now twelve years old.

He is only in the fourth grade in school, and the father is too ignorant to know that it is the tobacco that makes him so stupid. He lays it to the inefficiency of the teachers.

It seems that if he were taken away from his parents and dealt with sternly something might be made of him, as he seems to be very good at heart.

St. Paul's Chapel, City.
(a) Burr was born in Newark, N. J., on Feb. 6, 1766, and died

Please tell me what can be done and how to go about it.
MRS. J. B. S.
New York, Aug. 12, 1920.

All in the Family.
To the Editor of The Evening World:
I am told that a woman in our neighborhood is making a boast of her independence in politics and voicing her intention of voting against the Presidential candidate favored by her husband. It seems obvious that this woman will merely "kill" her husband's vote, and yet I understand that she and others like her really think themselves "smart" and believe that they will in this way swell the vote of their own favorites.

I wonder what the would-be "independents" who believe they are going to revolutionize politics will think when it dawns upon them that such tactics will not affect the result—that their ballots will be virtually blanks—that where two in a family "pair off" in this way they are merely giving a vote to Debs!

LISTENER.
New York, Aug. 12, 1920.

Why Not a "T. O. A."?
To the Editor of The Evening World:
Regarding your editorial in Thursday's issue entitled "A Low Start," I am of the opinion that it is about time the threatening public had something to say about the numerous obscene plays now on Broadway.

The Actors' Equity Association protects the actor; the Producing Managers' Association protects the producing manager, so why not "The Theatregoers' Organization of America"?

UNCOMMON SENSE

By John Blake

(Copyright, 1920, by John Blake.)

LEARN TO KEEP, AS WELL AS TO GET.
All men make money. Few keep it. Those who make it, even if they make large amounts, live improvidently and die in debt.

Those who keep it live comfortably and usually leave fortunes behind them.

Proportioning outlay to income is of course comparatively easy to the big money maker.

For a man on an average daily wage, with costs where they are just now, to do it seems impossible.

Yet all around you are men and women who are doing it. And in time they will have laid the foundations for independence.

Your income is probably fixed. You have just so much to spend.

Spend all of it and you have nothing left at the end of the month.

Save a little, and you are that much ahead.

But you are more than ahead in money. You are ahead in knowledge of the conservation of money.

You have learned that there are some things you can do without, with no sacrifice to your comfort.

You have learned also the pleasure of knowing that you have started a bank account which will grow—miraculously—by itself if you let it alone.

The art of keeping is born in some people. It can be cultivated by others, always provided, of course, that their burdens are not so great that saving is impossible.

But great as your burdens may be, you will find that they are no greater than those of many an immigrant who supports a family on the profits of a pushcart and learns how to save besides.

Saving is hard work. It means sacrifice, often discomfort. But it also means competence and perhaps prosperity by and by.

Figure out your own expenses and it may be that you can save more than you thought you could. And once you learn how to keep as well as to earn, you will be on your way toward the independence which is the goal of every right thinking man.

at Meersman's, now Port Richmond, Staten Island, on Sept. 14, 1836. He lies buried in Princeton, N. J., at the foot of his father and grandfather, President Burr, and President Edwards of Princeton University.

(b) Hamilton's oldest son, born about 1782, fell a victim to the barbarous practice of duelling in a petty quarrel at a theatre, three years before his father's death. Said to be on the same spot where his father fell and the action to have been instigated by one of Burr's supporters.

Am contemplating writing a series of articles on the history of New York real estate. Can you suggest any possible reference?

SIMON GREENFIELD.
265 Grand Street, City.
You will find in the Central New York Public Library a list of books, magazines, etc., like "Real Estate Values in Manhattan," and other

other volumes listed under card index, "Real Estate," see "New York City Real Estate," and Benson J. Lossing's "History of New York City From 1609 to 1890," and development from 1830 to 1884. We have already given the selling price of lots at Condit's Slip, Broad Street and elsewhere, and the cost and selling price of the Jumei Mansion grounds, &c.

Will you kindly publish the boundary of the Mason and Dixon line? A CONSTANT READER.
New York City.

The Love Stories of the Bible

By Rev. Thomas B. Gregory
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No. 7—Othniel and Achash.

THERE is no prettier love story anywhere than that of Othniel and Achash.

Caleb, Achash's father, was a prince of the tribe of Judah and stood so high in the Lord's favor that he was joined with Joshua in being permitted to enter the Promised Land. He was, in a word, the second biggest man in Israel.

And Caleb said, "He that smite Kirjath-Sepher and taketh it, to him will I give Achash, my daughter in wife."

This Kirjath-Sepher was the headquarters of the "Sons of Anak," whose immense stature and extraordinary prowess caused them to be known as "giants." It was no light task, therefore, that was to be performed by the one who was to win the heart and hand of Caleb's daughter. It must be observed further that Caleb's offer was of a general character. He was so desperately anxious that the terrible Sons of Anak should be overthrown that he stood ready to give his daughter to any man who would conquer them.

The prize was a splendid one, and it especially tugged away at Othniel's heart strings, for Achash already was deeply beloved by him. He had seen his affections upon her long before her father made the offer about the taking of Kirjath-Sepher.

The proof of Othniel's sincere love for Achash is seen from the fact that it was for herself alone that he was to fight against the Sons of Anak. The maiden alone was offered by Caleb as the inducement to the attempt against his enemy, and Othniel had no reason to expect anything more than the maiden herself in the event of his success at Kirjath-Sepher.

The success came, the giants were overthrown, and true to his word Caleb's daughter became Othniel's bride.

It is worth noting that in this ancient story we have the very first instance of chivalry recorded in history. After the wedding ceremony had been completed, the bride came to her husband, and it came to pass as she came unto him, she moved him to ask of her father a field; and she lighted off the ass, and Caleb, her father, said unto her, "What wouldst thou?" And she said unto him, "Give me a blessing; for thou hast given me a south land, give me also springs of water." And Caleb gave her also the upper springs and the nether springs.

It reminds us of the much later instance of chivalry on the part of the great Sultan, Saladin, when he sent his camels to the mountains for snow with which to cool the fevered brow of his enemy, Richard the Lion-Hearted.

In the "south land," the hot land, Caleb gave his daughter the cooling upper and nether springs of pure and sparkling water.

Very beautiful indeed—beautiful as the love of Othniel and his princess bride.

Of the capture of Kirjath-Sepher and the return of Achash the Bible tells us far too little. It may be permissible to say, right out, that the silence of the Old Book about many of its personages are downright provoking. Why so distastefully brief where we would give almost anything to know just a little more about the persons and events?

In the third chapter of Judges we find this statement, "And when the children of Israel cried unto the Lord, the Lord raised up a Saviour to the children of Israel, who saved them even Othniel, the son of Kenaz, the nephew of Caleb." The Lord came upon him, and he judged Israel, and the land had rest forty years.

Othniel, of course, was a hero, a "Love and death." Will it not be death—and love again?

Their engagement was made on June 20, 1763.

On April 4, 1766, after having, as they claimed, made many corrections, they began at their first objective point three miles from the northeast corner of Maryland. The furthest point westward reached by them was 238 miles, 17 chains and 18 links. When they were stopped by the Indians, the two American planes delivered to the Rev. Richard Peters, on Jan. 29, 1763. The completion between Pennsylvania and Virginia was made on May 7, 1774 by James Tillingham and Andrew Allen. The "Newcastle Circle," so-called, forming the northern boundary of Delaware, was the result of an agreement of compromise, neither willing to accept a direct east and west line—between the Commissioners of the two States.

There were stone monuments placed all along the line, and there have been several re-surveys since that time, one as late as May, 1906.

Kindly let me know whether Eugene Debs is the Presidential candidate of the Socialist Party, or whether he is not.

NEW YORK CITY.
There isn't any account of his having done so. He made his living for many years by speeches and writings, principally for the press.

Eugene Victor Debs is now serving a sentence of ten years for an incendiary speech at Canton, O., regarded as violating the Espionage Act, in the Federal Prison at Atlanta, Ga. He arrived there on June 18, 1918.

Can you say if Gen. George Washington used the Kennedy mansion as his headquarters during the Revolution? A. M. E.

The Kennedy House was built by Capt. Kennedy, R. N., at No. 1 Broadway about the time of his marriage with his first wife, daughter of Col. Peter Schuyler of Saratoga, in April, 1745. Washington made a brief residence there in the spring of 1776. Afterward it was occupied by Sir Henry Clinton and British Generals. There also, Major Andre wrote his celebrated letter to Benedict Arnold, which he signed "John Anderson."

NOTE—W. T. T. Brooklyn, N. Y., is advised, in communication, that if he was realized before the son reached the age of twenty-one the boy also becomes an American citizen. If not, then he must take out naturalization papers.